

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars.

1. In the specification

The specification is amended as presented in the AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION.

First, the specification at page 8, lines 15-17, is amended by the removal of "w" in reference to Fig. 2. As originally stated, the specification indicates that the wound dressing is intended to be placed against a wound bed. Other drawing figures, such as Figs. 5-9 exemplify the wound dressing placed over a wound bed. There is no need to identify a wound bed in Fig. 2 since the wound dressing is readily understood in connection with other drawings showing a wound bed w.

Further, the specification is amended on page 12 to provide a brief description on Fig. 12. Support for this description is found in originally-filed Fig. 12, and the specification on page 6, lines 4-10. No new matter is considered to be entered into the application by way of this amendment.

Next, the specification is amended to correctly denote the projection elements with reference numeral "57" instead of "56."

In certain instances, reference numeral "43" now reads "47."

Lastly, reference to "the needles," has been replaced with the consistent usage of the term "the projection elements."

Entry of the amendment to the specification is respectfully requested in the next Office communication.

2. In the claims

In the amendment to the claims, claim 1 is amended to clarify that the silicone gel has a thickness and the perforating elements are located on and extending from the

planar surface a distance therefrom greater than the thickness of the uncured silicone gel. Support for this amendment is found on page 29, lines 6-14, and in Figs. 19 and 20.

Claims 5-13 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Entry of the amendment to the claims is respectfully requested in the next Office communication.

3. Terminal disclaimer

A terminal disclaimer is submitted herewith in order to obviate the double patenting rejection of claims 1-4. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the submission of the terminal disclaimer.

4. Rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent application publication 2002/0193723 (*Batdorf*)

Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendment to claim 1 which clarifies that the perforating elements are located on and extend from the planar surface of the perforation device a distance greater than the thickness of the uncured silicone gel.

Nowhere in *Batdorf* is there any description of a perforation device having a plurality of perforating elements that are located on and extending from the planar surface of the perforation device. Accordingly, *Batdorf* does not anticipate every feature required by claim 1.

In view of these observations, withdrawal of this rejection courteously petitioned.

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Examiner: LEWIS, K. C.
Art Unit: 3772

5. Conclusion

As a result of the amended claims and the foregoing observations, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that every pending claim in the present application be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the applicants' attorney, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. J. Cassell", written over a horizontal line.

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